

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

OIC-02 CU-02 AGR-05 DOTE-00 HEW-02 HUD-01 INT-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02

FEAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /124 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9272

INFO US MISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 193

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 904

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6657

GENEVA FOR SCHIFF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECLA OCON CU

SUBJECT: UN HABITAT CONFERENCE - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

REF: STATE 142720; CARACAS 6645

1. FOLLOWING DELEGATES ELECTED TO PRESIDE OVER ECLA REGIONAL PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: PRESIDENT: DIEGO ARRIA (VENEZUELA); 1ST VICE PRESIDENT-VIRGILIO BARCO (COLOMBIA); 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-LEVY FARAH BALMADEA (CUBA); 3RD VICE PRESIDENT-ANTONIO SEAMAN (EL SALVADOR); RAPPORTEUR-JESUS SILVA HERZOG (MEXICO).

2. AFTER CONVERSATION WITH VITERI REPORTED REFTEL, USDEL SPOKE TO CANADIAN DELEGATE JAMES MACNEIL TO INFORM HIM OF
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CONVERSATION WITH VITERI. MACNEIL SAID HE WAS SCHEDULED

TO DINE WITH PENALOSA EVENING OF JUNE 29. IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING TO SEE PENALOSA PRIOR TO OPENING SESSION, USDEL ASKED MACNEIL TO CONVEY US OPPOSITION TO ELECTION OF CUBAN, SHOULD ONE BE NOMINATED.

3. MACNEIL INFORMED USDEL 8:30 A.M. JUNE 30, THAT PENALOSA AWARE OF US CONCERN. HE SAID PENALOSA POINTED OUT THAT CUBA SENDING STRONG DELEGATION T MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND THAT CUBA CAMPAIGNING ACTIVELY FOR OFFICE. PENALOSA THOUGHT CUBAN WOULD BE ELECTED IF NOMINATED, ACCORDING TO MACNEIL.

4. AT HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING 9:00 A.M. JUNE 30, PENALOSA SUGGESTED NOMINATION OF VENEZUELAN CHAIRMAN, A RAPPORTEUR, AND THREE VICE CHAIRMEN, ONE FROM CARIBBEAN, ONE FROM CENTRAL AMERICA, AND ONE FROM SOUTH AMERICA. BRAZILIAN DEL PROPOSED NOMINATION OF ABOVE SLATE. IN PLENARY SESSION FOLLOWING HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING, SLATE WAS NOMINATED AND ELECTED BY CONSENSUS.

5. USDEL SPOKE WITH PENALOSA FOLLOWING HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING AND PRIOR TO PLENARY SESSION. PENALOSA CONFIRMED THAT MACNEIL HAD GIVEN HIM FULL REPORT OF US OPPOSITION TO ELECTION OF CUBAN OFFICER. HE COMMENTED THAT CUBANS HAD PARTICIPATED RESPONSIBLY IN JANUARY PREPCON AND HE ANTICIPATED THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MEETING. HE RECOGNIZED THAT SOME OFFICIALS IN US WERE OPPOSED TO CUBANS HOLDING OFFICE IN UN BODIES, BUT EXPRESSED OPINION THAT OTHERS IN US WOULD FAVOR CUBAN PARTICIPATION. HE THOUGHT US OPPOSITION TO ELECTION OF CUBANS TO OFFICES OF THIS TYPE WOULD BE POORLY RECEIVED.

6. IN ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION TO OPPOSE, USDEL DECIDED NOT TO OPPOSE CONSENSUS FOR ELECTION OF CUBAN AS VICE PRESIDENT. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SUCH OPPOSITION WOULD FAIL TO CARRY AND WOULD INJECT DISTURBING POLITICAL ELEMENT IN CONFERENCE. US OPPOSITION MIGHT ALSO MAKE PURSUIT OF OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES (I.E., ISRAELI EXCLUSION), MORE DIFFICULT. USDEL REGRETS THAT THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT AND REQUEST FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. SHLAUDEMANN

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